

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 6-10, 13, and 15-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 21 are amended herein. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

IDS

On 07/29/08, the Applicant filed an IDS citing References IA-IL. The Applicant requests that the Examiner initial the PTO-1449 Form that accompanied that IDS to confirm that those 12 references have been officially considered.

On 02/27/09, the Applicant filed an IDS citing References MA-MT and NA-NE. The Applicant requests that the Examiner initial the two PTO-1449 Forms that accompanied that IDS to confirm that those 25 references have been officially considered.

Claim Rejections

In paragraph 4 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 6-9, and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 21 to clarify that the recited methods are path-manager-implemented methods. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 21 is found, for example, in previously pending claims 10 and 24. In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C. 101 have been overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 5, the Examiner allowed claims 10, 13, 15-19, and 24-26.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Mendelsohn, Drucker, & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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